

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name AUSTIN PASS WARMING HUT

other names/site number USFS No. CR06-05-03-13

2. Location

street & number Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest /NA/not for publication

city, town Glacier /XX/vicinity

state Washington code WA county Whatcom code 073 zip code 98244

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u> structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u>      </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.     See continuation sheet.

*Erwan J. DuPlasse*

10-25-90

Signature of certifying official

Date

USDA Forest Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.     See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

10/11/90

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.  
determined eligible for  
the National Register.

See continuation sheet.  
determined not eligible for  
the National Register.

removed from the National  
Register.

other, (explain:)

*John J. Knecht*

*12/21/90*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories  
from instructions)  
Recreation, Sports Facility

Current Functions (enter categories  
from instructions)  
Domestic, Institutional Housing

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)  
Other: Rustic

Materials enter categories from  
instructions)  
foundation Concrete, masonry veneer  
walls Wood, weatherboard

roof Wood, shingle

other

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.** The Austin Pass Warming Hut is a two and one-half story masonry and wood frame building constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1940. It is located in a subalpine setting at an elevation of 4440 feet, surrounded by scattered mountain hemlock and Pacific silver fir. The building is situated on a knob of columnar andesite, which drops rapidly away from the principal elevation to create a spectacular view of lake basins and mountains. A gravel parking lot for approximately 16 cars is located just to the south.

When originally constructed, the Warming Hut had a T plan, with the principal elevation at the northwest. A steeply-pitched, cross-gabled roof is covered with cedar shakes. The roof and a gabled dormer extend over the principal elevation to create a wide porch. The porch has a flagstone floor, and a centered entry to the first story. A second entry is offset left in the southeast elevation. A third is located off a second-story porch in the south angle of the T. Windows are fixed and casement with three, nine, or twelve lights, and are surrounded by quarter-pole trim. Paired, rectangular vents are located in the northeast and southwest gable ends. Simple pole trusses are located under the southeast and dormer gable ends. A coursed columnar andesite chimney is located on the ridge line near the junction of the gables.

The first-floor walls are concrete with an exterior masonry veneer of coursed, rough-cut columnar andesite. Above the first floor the building is covered with horizontal ten-inch clapboard siding. The clapboard is applied vertically at the southeast gable and the northwest dormer, and in a chevron pattern below the dormer windows.





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The Warming Hut was originally constructed as a ski shelter, supporting a ski area developed by the Mt. Baker Development Company. The interior included a large warming room, waxing and drying room, and sleeping loft. It also had either a lunch room or kitchen (Heller 1980: 45; Schmierer 1983: 52). The warming room was finished with knotty pine panelling and included a massive fireplace of rough-cut columnar andesite.

The Warming Hut was not successful in its intended function. Heavy snowfall made use difficult, as food and other supplies had to be skied in. The Second World War, and the attendant gasoline rationing, led the State highway department to discontinue plowing of the road to the ski area, leading to its financial collapse. Following the war, management difficulties prevented new operators from developing a successful ski area until the late 1950's (Heller 1980: 46-56). Consequently, use of the Warming Hut was limited.

In 1972, the Forest Service issued the University of Washington a permit to use the Warming Hut as a field station, and the building was rehabilitated for the new use. Interior alterations affected the integrity of the property. On the first floor, rest rooms were removed and the area at the base of the T was partitioned to accommodate an electric generator and related equipment. On the second floor, the main room was divided into four bedrooms, a toilet, and a living area. The food service area at the base of the T was remodeled. The open ceiling was dropped, the original knotty pine panelling was removed, and walls and ceiling were covered with drywall. The original andesite fireplace located in the living area remained intact.

Exterior modifications were less extensive. A one-story room with a flat roof was added in the east angle to house a 2000-gallon diesel storage tank serving the electric generator. The walls are concrete with a coursed andesite veneer reflective of the original, although the workmanship is of lesser quality. Three courses of clapboard cover the top portion of the walls and match the original siding.

Other additions included a pair of 1200-gallon propane tanks located approximately 50 feet south of the Warming Hut, and a concrete septic tank, partially exposed on the surface, located approximately 50 feet north. The propane tanks supplied a forced air furnace. A small A-frame structure constructed with dimension lumber and shakes covers the valves.

The Warming Hut is currently used as housing for Forest Service work crews employed in the Heather Meadows area. During the University of Washington or recent Forest Service occupation, a metal radio mast was added to the southeast elevation, and a flagpole placed in the south angle.

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name: Austin Pass Warming Hut

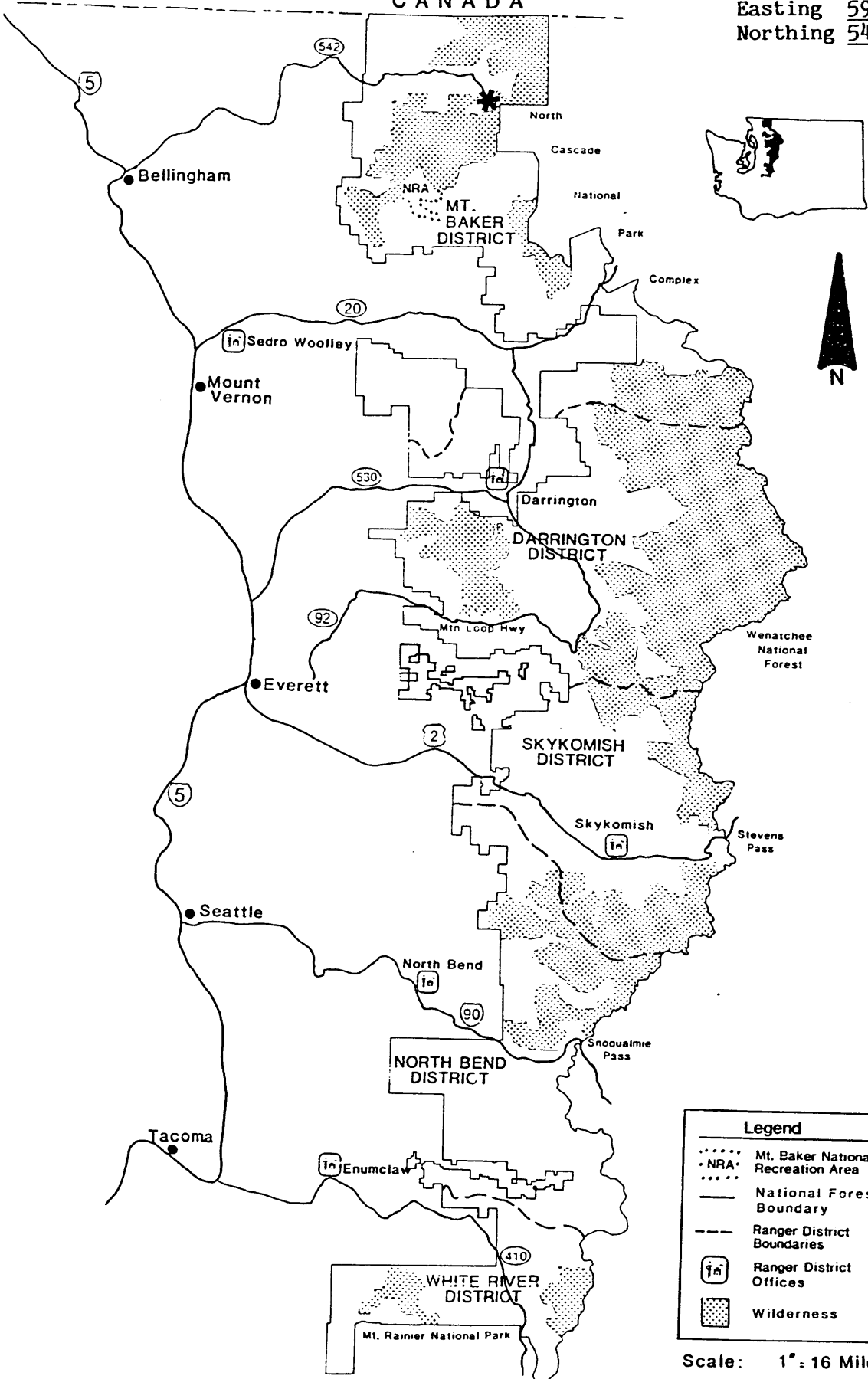
Location: Glacier vicinity, Whatcom County, Washington

Location of original negatives: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest  
1022 First Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

1. General view of Warming Hut location, looking northwest from Mt. Baker Highway. Terminal Lake in foreground, Austin Pass Picnic Area at right center. Photograph by James A. McDonald, Sept. 6, 1989. Location of camera is beyond border of property sketch map.
2. Front elevation of Warming Hut, looking southeast. Photograph by James A. McDonald, Sept. 6, 1989.
3. Rear of Warming Hut, looking north-northwest, and showing propane tanks (non-contributing structure) in left middleground. Photograph by James A. McDonald, Sept. 6, 1989.
4. Rear elevation of Warming Hut, looking northwest. Room containing fuel tank is at right of building (compare to Photograph 7). Photograph by James A. McDonald, Sept. 6, 1989.
5. Detail of rear porch, looking northwest. Photograph by James A. McDonald, Sept. 6, 1989.
6. View of Warming Hut looking southeast. Photograph by Laurence Taylor, August, 1988.
7. Rear elevation of Warming Hut, looking approximately west. Compare with Photograph 4 to see effect of addition of fuel storage room. Photographer unknown, taken ca. 1941.
8. Interior of warming room as originally constructed, showing open ceiling and pine panelling. View approximately east. Photographer and date unknown.

AUSTIN PASS WARMING HUT

UTM: Zone 10  
Easting 596600  
Northing 5411950



**Legend**

- ..... Mt. Baker National Recreation Area
- ..... National Forest Boundary
- Ranger District Boundaries
- [I] Ranger District Offices
- [Stippled Box] Wilderness

Scale: 1" = 16 Miles

AUSTIN PASS WARMING HUT  
Glacier Vicinity,  
Whatcom County, WA

Map 2: Property & Boundary

Property Boundary



1 Photo Number

